

\$2

JUNE 2021 | VOLUME 12 | ISSUE 6

YOUR DONATION BENEFITS THE VENDORS.
PLEASE BUY ONLY FROM BADGED VENDORS.

Juneteenth — a celebration of
freedom. **Page 10**

MEET YOUR
VENDOR:
HOSEA HILL,
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GROUNDCOVER

NEWS AND SOLUTIONS FROM THE GROUND UP | WASHTENAW COUNTY, MICH.



**BEHIND THE
WHIPPED
CREAM.** Page 5

The urban landscape of a pandemic; the privileged and the ignored

ZOEY HOROWITZ
Groundcover contributor

I made a good friend. He is a prophet. His name is rather beautiful. I won't share it though, because I asked him once. I asked him if I could help him to set up a sermon, find a place to preach — maybe West Park with the outside benches and the little stage. But he told me he prefers it casual, nothing formal, nothing too large. He speaks to the people one person at a time, two people make a church. So I will not tell you his name.

I will tell you to walk the streets of Ann Arbor, and to be friendly and open while you do it. Say hello to every person you see, or at least smile with your eyes. Maybe you will meet him and he can tell you about it himself. Tell you about where the streets go and where they have been. He knows everyone, every single person as they are now, or as they were in a past life.

The first time we met I was going to get my bike fixed. I had a flat tire. He was sitting against a wall at the corner of State and Liberty, smiling, at every single person that walked by. His smile reaches his eyes and the tips of his ears. And then suddenly we were talking about cedar trees and pine, which ones God had condemned. We bought coffee and he walked me home. The people who saw us together were kind to me, they had never noticed me before. He introduced me to the street, the people on the streets and the people of the streets.

For a while, we met every Saturday at 2:00 p.m. We met on the Diag and walked, or sometimes we had lunch. He always wanted to go places. I thought he just wanted to

spend those Saturday afternoons with me because of my money. I wasn't mad about that. I have money, from my family and myself. Sometimes he has 10 dollars.

But then I realized it wasn't at all about the money I had. It was about the way I was. The way people in stores asked me where I wanted to sit and pointed out the bathroom to me when I asked. And he liked me for my M-Card and the way we could sit in the warm university buildings and people would sit next to us. I think he likes me because I allowed him to be places. He also loves me. I love him too just for the way we listen to each other.

The summer of 2020 arrived, the summer of the coronavirus. With him in mind, I started seeing the streets as a home: a home to business, to pedestrians, to the houseless, to the street performers. I noticed the boundaries that exist between people and how the design of the streets reflect those boundaries. COVID-19 changed my life, but how did it change his? How did it change the landscape of the city? What barriers between people, like me and like him and all the people like us, were being broken as we found ourselves living in a city together during COVID-19?

In April of 2020, Oakland, California shut down 21 miles of its city streets to through traffic in an effort to provide more open and public space for socially distanced physical activity. In June, New York City opened its sidewalks and closed its streets, so that restaurants could have outdoor dining. The fields of parks are now tattooed with spray-painted circles, 6-feet apart. Pre-vaccine, there was no cure for COVID-19, but creative land use

and design had the potential to give us back some freedom that the virus took from us.

This is not the first time public health has turned to urban design for solutions; our modern cities are memories of past pandemics, disasters, and diseases. In the 1830s and 40s, cities in the United States experienced devastating bouts of cholera. Cholera motivated a sanitation revolution that built modern sewage and water infrastructure in American urban spaces. Mosquito-borne diseases like malaria and yellow fever prompted the draining of swamp and marshlands all over the world and permanently altered natural landscapes. Health has always informed our planning of the built environment.

COVID-19 has required us to think about the redesign of our cities. Because coronavirus is an airborne disease, space is a valuable environmental feature. Urban landscapes must find ways to accommodate for lower densities in order to reduce transmission. The current American landscape provides homeowners and most middle-class families indoor space where life can occur safely. Cities boasting high tax bases can invest in their parks services to give people safe space for leisure and exercise. Wealthy school districts can provide their students with iPads for remote learning.

But then, what about poor people struggling in cities? Lower income individuals tend to live in higher density, crowded corridors that are a huge risk for transmission. Further, these populations have no physical room for schools, jobs, or

LETTER TO EDITOR

I cannot remember the article title, but it discusses the writer getting banned from the co-op for saying a "bad word" and that it violates his freedom of speech, which has had people calling the board requesting this person be unbanned. The person in question said the N-Word to a black person. I do not think that it is acceptable that this article was published, as the person writing it is misinforming the readers. There is a difference between a swear word and an actual bad word with a history of racism being said by a white person to a black person. I think that them not saying the word in the article speaks volumes. Either they understood that it was not okay to say, and hid the truth, or they were not allowed to print the word, which should be another indication that they are in the wrong.

— Anonymous

FROM THE EDITOR

In addition to providing a work opportunity to our vendors, one of the main purposes of Groundcover is to provide a platform to those whose voices might not otherwise be heard. We understood ["Responding to a trespass order," April 2021 issue] to be vocalizing frustration with the People's Food Co-op's trespassing process, not a plea to have the trespass lifted, or an excuse or defense of saying the slur itself. The vendor was upset that it was attributed to him, and he had no chance to challenge the acquisition. We did not approve of printing the slur in the paper, but now in retrospect we understand that "bad word" was a poor word choice as it is not indicative of the harm of the word that was actually said.

MEET YOUR VENDOR



Hosea Hill, vendor No. 532

In one sentence, who are you?
I am a sports admirer, learner, Eastern University graduate (Communication, Media and Theatre Arts), and Southeast Michigan local.

Where do you usually sell Groundcover News?
Ypsilanti, downtown Ann Arbor, and busy areas.

What is your favorite thing to do in Ann Arbor?
I enjoy eating at different places, and especially enjoy Indian cuisine and chicken wings.

What is something about you that someone on the street wouldn't know?
I believe the most important things in life are being real with oneself, having a set of goals, being honest, having integrity and purpose in life.

What improvements would you like to see in Washtenaw County?
I would like to see improvement in the communication and relations between students and locals: to have better political, familial, police and racial relations.

What is your superpower?
Speed reading.

What motivates you to work hard selling Groundcover News?
I appreciate the positive energy that is caused by people interchanging words and experiences.

What is your next job?
I'm looking for a career as a librarian. I would also like to work in a bikeshop.

What would you like to know more about?
How people think, behave and seek improvement.

Boober update: Anticipating the best year yet

Boober is entering its best year ever. The app is now getting repeat patrons and working smoothly. We were having difficulties claiming some of the rides, but now those issues are fixed. It seems like everyone is impressed with the fully functional app.

We had a marketing meeting with Treehouse 603 and worked on the new marketing strategy for the tour advertising trailer. We will be completing the top and bottom lightbox signs and adding a photo booth on the trailer so people can easily post to social media.

In the last four weeks, we had an independent pedicabber, Arthur, come into town. His cab



KEVIN SPANGLER
Groundcover vendor No. 307

is immaculate and is well lit. My drivers requested lights on their cabs after seeing his setup, so we started getting lights for our pedicabs. Arthur is knowledgeable about electricity and helped arrange lights for our fleet. You could say he is an angel for coming to help brighten up my

cabs for the safety of the community.

We are currently rebuilding our crew, and now have six solid people and are currently training more. Steve is one of our new drivers. He has been working twelve-hour days, five days a week, and loves the job. He helps whenever he can and is a great image for Boober.

One of my friends of many years, and a solid crew member, is William Williams. He has overcome addiction and financial debt. He is now doing very well, paying all his bills and has money saved. We are very proud of our crew that is prepared for the summer.

Introduction of fresh summer kicks

HOSEA HILL Groundcover vendor No. 534

My passion for sports started at age 3. My love for sneakers started at age 6. Now, I write on sports and sneakers at age 32.

As part of Jordan Brand's Summer 2021 lineup, the Air Jordan 6 "Electric Green" will be a new colorway of Michael Jordan's sixth signature shoe which was originally debuted in 1991.

Ann Arbor and the University of Michigan are certainly

familiar with the Jordan Brand because the Wolverines football program became the first football team to wear the Jordan Brand logo on its official team apparel. They've been a part of the Jordan Brand family since 2016. The Wolverines basketball programs have also been sporting that logo for a few years.

The new Jordan kicks are set to release this month. These shoes will add a retro style to youth and adult summer outfits.

They further represent the fandom of Michigan football and basketball teams. They also show appreciation for American designer, Tinker Hatfield. Oh, and the shoe glows in the dark. So that's fresh!

Favorite Sports Teams: Detroit Pistons (2004 Go in' to Work Pistons), Boston Celtics (2020-2021 team).

Favorite Kicks: Air Jordan 35 'DNA' basketball shoes and Top Ten RB Donovan Mitchell shoes.

My chicken noodle soup poem



DENISE SHEARER
Groundcover vendor No. 485

Chicken Noodle Soup on any day of the week means a big deal to me.

I like hot Chicken Noodle Soup on cold days and also on warm, summer days.

Chicken Noodle Soup is a delicious and good food to me.

I like Chicken Noodle Soup whether I make it myself or get it at a restaurant.

I like Chicken Noodle Soup when I buy it in a can at the store, too.

The way I make Chicken Noodle Soup homemade is by boiling chicken in hot water until it gets real soft and tender.

Then I add a can of Chicken Noodle Soup to the pot with the

chicken as well as salt and pepper.

Chicken Noodle Soup has been my favorite food since I was a baby and now as an adult.

Every time I eat it, or have ever eaten it, it is a precious moment.

GROUNDCOVER

Mission

Creating opportunity and a voice for low-income people while taking action to end homelessness and poverty.

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Catherine Nouhan — editor

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Groundcover News turns 11: Making a difference, addressing life's most difficult challenges

Groundcover News makes a difference in the Ann Arbor-Washtenaw political jurisdiction. We believe that the local impacts are staggering and far-reaching. We have influenced social changes, championed progressive causes and we have empowered people to profoundly change their lives.

Groundcover News was launched in 2010 by our founder and publisher emeritus, Susan Beckett. She is an experienced writer, editor, journalist, civic leader, activist and social entrepreneur. The organization that she founded has a humble beginning. St. Andrew's Church provided a tiny storage space and a bin for storing newspapers which were sold to Groundcover vendors during the breakfasts served at St. Andrew's. Today, the headquarters at Bethlehem United Church of Christ has adequate file cabinets, telephones, computers, a conference table and a big office space.

Nobody can tell the origin story of Groundcover News better than Beckett. It started with her commitment to helping vulnerable people with income opportunities and innovative poverty solutions.

"The prospect of a way for some people to meet their basic needs with dignity during the bleak circumstances of the Great Recession motivated me to start Groundcover News," said Beckett. "The encouragement and support of the religious community and other street newspapers, especially Toledo Streets, empowered me to move from commitment to action.

"Groundcover News was established for the express purpose of serving the needs of low-income members of our community. We consider it a responsibility to report on issues that directly impact the economically vulnerable," said Beckett in the October 2010 edition of Groundcover.

"People living in vulnerable circumstances have so many needs — we couldn't possibly meet them all. But we are fortunate to live in a community that offers many services. At Groundcover News we concentrate on those areas where there are gaps, most notably income generation and a mechanism for social exchange between socio-economic classes," said Beckett.

According to the Groundcover News mission statement, "Groundcover News exists to create opportunity and a voice for low-income people while taking action to end homelessness and poverty." A poster in the first edition of the Newspaper (July-August 2010 Volume 1, Issue 1), highlighted a quote



WILL SHAKESPEARE
Groundcover vendor No. 258

from Alice Walker: "Activism is my rent for living on this planet."

Historical context

Three years before the newspaper was launched, there were several local and national events that brought difficult challenges to communities across the nation. The sub-prime lending practices of Wells Fargo Bank and others contributed to massive foreclosure, abandoned communities, homelessness, job loss and housing insecurity. The eventual collapse of some Wall Street investment banks hastened the factory closings in metro Detroit, Flint and other Michigan cities with auto-related industries.

The Bush administration and Congress fashioned a rescue plan for Wall Street, and subsequently, the Detroit auto industries, especially GM and Chrysler. There was a nationwide protest against saving Wall Street. From Downtown Ann Arbor to Midtown Manhattan, there were thousands of demonstrators carrying signs that said, "OCCUPY WALL STREET."

Barack Obama was elected President of the United States in November 2008 and accepted the mantle of leadership in January 2009. The Great Recession of 2007 to 2009 began easing during the summer and fall of 2009.

The Ann Arbor News was acquired by a regional newspaper chain. Instead of daily printed news, it started to publish the physical newspapers only on Thursdays and Sundays.

Another newsworthy event was the eviction of 78 homeless individuals at Camp Take Notice (CTN) in June 2010 by the Michigan Department of Transportation. Those catastrophic events were well documented and reported by Groundcover News.

How Groundcover News made a difference for me and the community

My mom, a retired teacher and businesswoman, brought to my attention

the crushing and devastating impacts of poverty, hunger and destitution that exist all over the world. She helped me develop a heightened sense of consciousness, empathy and sympathy. I have carried that moral compass to high school, college and graduate school. I wanted to be an advocate and a voice for world-weary people in the United States and across the globe. Although I do not have a UN job or Michigan Health and Human Services job, Groundcover News has given me the platform to write about topics that matter to me and the public.

We have written extensively about the poverty crisis in Michigan cities and Washtenaw County. We have covered the fatalities of the homeless during cold winter months. We have addressed the affordable housing crisis in Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti. We have helped to focus the state and local governments' attention on health equity and health disparities — especially during the pandemic.

I have been privileged to meet and hold conversations with thousands of townsfolk and members of the University community. The dialogues, especially the ones with the Washtenaw County Racial Equity Taskforce and the Ann Arbor Human Rights Commission, have been very impactful. Very rewarding! I saw so much love and caring from our community leaders, and I feel more optimistic about our community's future. Also, I learned that many U-M students and faculty members love Groundcover News.

My writing has improved tremendously over time. I had the good fortune of being mentored by seasoned writers and journalists — Susan Beckett, Ted Sylvester and Jim McBee of Groundcover News.

From championing the cause of the homeless to adding pressure to government decision makers, Groundcover News has become a force for change in Ann Arbor and Washtenaw County. When Camp Take Notice was evacuated, the publisher, staff and volunteers at Groundcover News stepped up. They joined a coalition of concerned citizens and civic leaders to address the growing homeless plight. The Ann Arbor City Council members, including Mayor Hieftje, were contacted in 2010 and beyond.

Ann Arbor area churches have worked with our newspaper, along with the Shelter Association of Washtenaw County to provide day-time and nighttime warming spaces for the homeless population which has grown since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic

in 2020. We also worked with the Community Action Network, the Inter Faith Council for Peace and Justice, volunteers from the Jewish Temples (Beth Emeth and Beth Israel), volunteers from the Moslem Faith (Ann Arbor Mosque), Food Gatherers of Ann Arbor, Hope Clinic of Ypsilanti, and other non-profit organizations in order to address hunger and food insecurity in Washtenaw County.

Since 2014, we have addressed the issues of police brutality, community policing, and the need to establish a police oversight review commission. We have testified before the Ann Arbor Human Rights Commission and the City Council for a major reform of the punitive police trespass citations. It worked. Our founder continues advocating for housing and other supports to the Michigan Congressional delegation and legislature, urging them to help pass relevant legislation.

People in difficult economic circumstances have a near-immediate opportunity to earn cash. Vendors get the first 10 newspapers free, allowing them to capitalize their venture as they sell those 10 papers. They earn income by their hard work, passion, determination and the soft skills of non-violent communication, politeness and courtesy. Workshops promoting these and other skills were conducted regularly prior to the pandemic and will resume soon.

Vendors who wish to work at other businesses are encouraged to do so and are assisted in finding job listings. Several vendors took their entrepreneurship to new levels and started new businesses. They all believe in the aphorism that "Success is 1% inspiration and 99% perspiration." Examples of the new businesses include, T-Shirt Printing, Boober Pedicab city transport services, cleaning services, real estate management services, and bed and breakfast hospitality service. The common denominator for all these new businesses is that they all provide more employment opportunities for low-income and homeless individuals.

Before the pandemic, Kevin Spangler, a Groundcover Vendor and business owner, employed about 12 housing insecure men and women to power pedicabs. He also worked closely with a shelter staff member, Ms. Kelly, who established Soul Cafe inside the Ann Arbor Reuse Center which helps homeless women in recovery from drug abuse, drug addiction, alcohol addiction or domestic violence earn income.

see **GROUNDCOVER** page 9 ➡

Behind the whipped cream

JAZ BRENNAN AND LARZELL WASHINGTON
Groundcover intern and vendor No. 128

Everyone knows the sweet delight of whipped cream: smooth, sugary, a favorite topping on many varieties of dessert. However, a new version of an old trend is overshadowing this tasty treat. The very thing that makes whipped cream so fluffy is being used to get people a rush greater than just a sugar rush.

Nitrous oxide, or N₂O, is the gas found in whipped cream canisters. A bulb full of the compressed gas (shown on this issue's cover) is placed into a "gun" and released to foam the cream. The device was originally made for culinary purposes and could be found in restaurants and cafes, but now people are using the canisters and bulbs to 'huff' the gas. This drug, known as whippets, or whippits, is aptly named after the leading canister company Whip-It.

Groundcover was able to speak with a past user of whippets, Miles, who reports having first tried the drug around the age of fifteen.

"I really like inhalants," Miles stated. "They are the only thing other than alcohol that can get me there. But once you turn them on, it's hard to turn them off."

Huffing is the act of inhaling

chemicals through an aerosol spray. This is a highly accessible form of intoxication as aerosol sprays can be purchased at most, if not all, retail stores. This makes huffing popular with young people since the drug can be purchased without question.

Miles voiced concern over the increasing accessibility of the drug, noting that it's not just whippets, but other aerosol sprays as well. He reports having jumped from huffing whippets to air dusters because they were cheaper and more available.

"You can find [inhalants] everywhere. I remember finishing off an air duster three-pack in the parking lot of the Walmart. I just bought them."

As the trend grows, these whipped cream canisters have been making their way into head shops, corner stores, and gas stations throughout the country.

Nitrous oxide is commonly referred to as laughing gas and has been used by medical professionals for a century, often given to dental patients as a lighter alternative to other anesthetics. When introduced by a medical professional, ample amounts of oxygen are blended in the compound to decrease harmful effects; but the drug's historic medical usage generates a false sense of security in young users who see the inhalant as non-lethal.

When huffed, N₂O causes a euphoric,

relaxing, and semi-dissociative state. The high doesn't last long, approximately 30 second to a minute, requiring a higher rate of use over a short period of time.

Miles reported similar effects from the drug as mentioned above, euphoria and sensory alteration, but adds auditory and visual hallucinations to his experience as well.

"It's like I lose my mind and self for a moment."

Miles agreed this effect is short lived, most highs lasting one minute or less before needing more. He stated that after inhaling he would feel groggy and out of it immediately after and lasting up to a couple of days.

"It kills a lot of brain cells, I could feel the brain damage."

Inhaling this type of chemical can cause several serious and potentially fatal effects. Damage to the lungs, heart, liver, kidneys and nervous system has been reported. Memory loss, tinnitus, loss of muscle control and anemia have been the most common symptoms experienced in long-term use. However, the more immediate concerning effect of the inhalant is frostbite. N₂O gas is released from the canister at -40 degrees celsius and can cause frostbite to the nose, mouth, and vocal cords. Those using it may experience numbness of the oral cavity, loss of taste or frozen gums and cheeks when

huffing directly from a can. To subvert this effect, people have taken to releasing the gas first into a balloon, then breathing it in. This allows the gas to expand and warm before entering the body. However, even this creative solution doesn't lessen the damage being done by the chemical itself.

Nitrous oxide was first discovered over 240 years ago and has only been in practical and legitimate use for the past 100. It will take more education and conversation in the public eye to limit the extracurricular use of this addictive substance.

Miles disclosed struggling with alcohol and inhalant addiction for years. He has been working to get and stay sober for the past ten months, utilizing a local recovery program and AA to assist him.

"I just want anyone out there struggling to know that the recovery community is here to help."

If you are currently struggling with whippet or inhalant addiction, please reach out by contacting any of the resources below.

SAMHSA National Helpline: 1(800) 662-HELP (ex. 4357)
Dawn Farms Spera Center: 1(743) 669-8265
Washtenaw County Alcoholics Anonymous: 1(734) 482-0707

My life update and the sister I'll never stop missing

TABITHA LUDWIG
Groundcover vendor No. 360

Trigger warning: suicide, murder, addiction

I can't believe it's been three years already. A lot has happened since, but not a day goes by where I don't think about you. Some days are harder than others and then some days just go by.

I just had a beautiful baby girl on April 2, 2021, just a couple of days after your 34th birthday. I named her Crystal Maggie Marie. I promise she will know who you were and how wonderful of a person you were. She'll also know that she got her name, Crystal Marie, from you. I'm calling her Maggie, so she can have her own identity. When she gets older, she can decide if she wants to go by Crystal or Maggie.

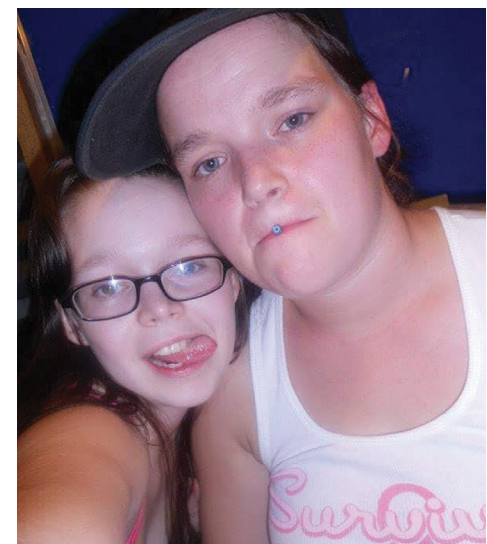
I'm sorry to tell you and my Groundcover readers who have been wondering how I have been that I have not

been the best, but I have been getting through day by day.

The woman who murdered my sister is doing a life sentence with no parole. She was sentenced two years ago, on my sister's one-year anniversary of her passing. That was the best thing that could have happened, but at the end of the day, I still don't have my sister.

Last year, on her second anniversary, I just could not cope. I relapsed and tried to overdose because I didn't want to be around anymore. I wanted to go back and be with my sister. But my sister and God had different plans for my life. I became pregnant one month after I tried to overdose. Now, I have my beautiful baby girl and I have a reason to live again.

So now I'm still here and I want you all to know that things are finally starting to look up for me. I know that my life will never be the same without her but I'm ready to finally continue on with my life and live on for her and



Left: Tabitha pictured with her late sister, Crystal. Right: Tabitha's newborn daughter, Crystal Maggie Marie.

also for my children.

I love you so much sissy, and I miss you every day. I know that you are looking down on all of us, and I also know that even though I might have messed up, that, no matter what, you

are proud of me and that you love me. Keep your strength pouring down over me. I need it every day. I miss you. I love you with all my heart and, when it's my time, I'll be up there with you. Fly high sissy 3/30/87 to 6/19/18.

Why Michigan is trying to take some prisoners' stimulus checks

ANGIE JACKSON
Journalist, The Detroit Free Press

Some Michigan prisoners who planned to spend their stimulus checks on things like personal hygiene items and phone calls are learning that the state is trying to seize most of their money.

[State law](#) allows the Attorney General's Office to go after 90% of a prisoner's assets as reimbursement for the "cost of care," such as housing, medical and other living expenses within the Michigan Department of Corrections. Stimulus funds have triggered the Attorney General's Office to take action against about 50 prisoners, a spokeswoman said in late March. The process starts with a complaint filed in circuit court to freeze a prisoner's assets, followed by proceedings in front of a judge.

Some prisoners and attorneys say it's counterproductive and a waste of resources for the state to try to seize money for the cost of incarceration from people with relatively minimal assets from stimulus checks and prison wages. Incarcerated people said they have seen the state take money from prisoners before, but only from those with pensions or real estate. One man on parole said he resorted to panhandling after the state asked a court to freeze his money, most of which was left to him by his mother who died while he was in prison.

Phil Brown said he had about \$1,800 in his MDOC account — money from stimulus checks, wages from earning \$1.20 a day as a janitor in prison, and deposits from loved ones — when the state moved to freeze his funds in February. The 42-year-old, who is housed at Muskegon Correctional Facility, said he had no other assets.

"The amount of money that they're going after in my case is like peanuts," said Brown, who added: "it's not like I'm holding money in the Cayman Islands."

In an email, Courtney Covington Watkins, a spokeswoman for the Attorney General's Office, said "like any collection action or any other enforcement matter brought by the office, there are always individual circumstances that are considered in pursuing the case and reaching a resolution."

But attorney Kristina Dunne said she thinks the state is taking action indiscriminately. One of her clients fighting the state's attempt to seize his money works two jobs in prison and earns less than \$1,000 a year, she said. Beyond paying for needs like toiletries, Dunne

said stimulus funds could benefit prisoners' families — who often shoulder [the costs of a loved one's incarceration](#) — or go toward someone's eventual return home.

"That money will give them money to put a down payment on an apartment or help their families," she said.

In 2020, the Attorney General's Office initiated 95 cases under the [State Correctional Facility Reimbursement Act](#). The state collected \$2.1 million last year, though that total may include cases filed prior to 2020. Money recouped under the law is credited to the state's general fund.

A prisoner's home with a value of up to \$50,000 and wages earned in prison are not considered assets under the law.

Last fall, [a class-action lawsuit](#) won prisoners the right to collect stimulus checks from the Internal Revenue Service.

[Funds issued to prisoners](#) under the first and third round of stimulus payments — from the CARES Act and the American Rescue Plan Act — are subject to collection. The state Attorney General's Office said funds issued to prisoners under the second round of payments, from the Consolidated Appropriations Act, are not being sought. Those checks were [protected from debt collection](#) by states and prisons.

Under MDOC policy, prison officials notify the Attorney General's Office when a prisoner has assets of \$1,500 or more or is receiving recurring deposits. Chris Gautz, an MDOC spokesman, said the Attorney General's Office has asked the department to send scanned copies of all stimulus checks that prisoners receive.

Separate from the cost of their incarceration, people in prison are used to seeing 50% of deposits of more than \$50 per month collected from their accounts if they owe restitution, court fines, fees or child support.

Michael Hills, 33, said he expected to hold onto all of his stimulus payments because he doesn't owe restitution, fines or court costs. But he learned in March that the Attorney General's Office, representing the state treasurer, was trying to seize his assets. A circuit court judge will decide if he should pay the state for the cost of his incarceration.

Hills has \$2,662 in his prison account, and all but \$1,000 of that was frozen. He said he earns an average of \$79 a month from his jobs training dogs to guide the blind and doing yard maintenance at Oaks Correctional Facility in Manistee. He said people "don't understand how much it actually costs to live in prison," estimating that he spends between \$60

and \$80 a month on postage, phone calls, emails, food from commissary and toiletries.

"Everything in here cost us money to be able to survive," Hills said. "The MDOC doesn't supply us with everything that we need. It took a pandemic for them to pass out soap and it's still like pulling teeth from a crocodile to try to get soap."

Dunne, who is representing Hills, said she hopes to convince a judge to throw out the state's complaint against him. She argued in court filings that under the law, the attorney general may seek reimbursement only if the prisoner has enough assets to cover either 10% of their estimated cost of care or 10% of their care for two years, whichever is less. Hills' assets are "far less" than that, she wrote.

It cost an average of \$42,123 to incarcerate a single person in the 2020 fiscal year, according to the [House Fiscal Agency](#).

"I think they're hoping that people will just roll over," Dunne said.

Inheritance triggers state action



Michael Ware, Groundcover vendor No. 163

People on parole can also be on the hook for the cost of their incarceration. Michael Ware, 50, received two stimulus checks after he was released from prison in December, but the rest of his money is tied up in court while the state tries to seize 90% of his assets to pay for his care by MDOC.

Ware has about \$14,000 in an unclaimed property account with the state Department of Treasury that he tried to access after he left prison. He inherited most of the money from his mother, who knew he would have a hard time securing housing after prison and left him funds to get on his

feet, he said. A judge ordered his assets frozen in early March.

Unable to pull from his savings, Ware said he resorted to panhandling in Ann Arbor, making about \$50 a day while he looked for a job. He said he wished the state had given him a chance to set up a payment arrangement of some sort before moving to freeze and take his money.

"They know that a parolee goes through a lot trying to get his life back together. There's a lot of rejection he has to go through," said Ware, who is also being represented by Dunne. "All this is supposed to be designed to help us get back on our feet and have the right start, but it seems like it's doing everything to stop that."

Ware was homeless for several days in early April after he was kicked out of his MDOC-funded transitional housing. Ware had used his stimulus payments to buy a used car in anticipation of starting training at a truck driving school. He said when he told his parole agent about the purchase, his agent said he was supposed to save money for a permanent place to live.

Brianna Brugel, an MDOC spokeswoman, initially told the Free Press that Ware was removed from the home because his car purchase had violated his housing agreement that prohibited him from buying a vehicle.

Brugel later said that there had been a "misunderstanding" about Ware's housing agreement and that the department had discovered he was not prohibited from buying a car. Ware was allowed to return to the transitional home after the Free Press inquired about his situation.

Sandra Girard, a retired attorney who ran Prison Legal Services, a non-profit that operated inside some Michigan prisons and employed prisoners as paralegals, said the law that allows for reimbursement for the cost of incarceration is "draconian."

"Very rarely an extremely wealthy person has been incarcerated," she said. "It might make a little bit of sense then, but when people have these modest incomes or estates that they inherit, it's just cruel."

Angie Jackson covers the challenges of formerly incarcerated citizens as a corps member with Report for America. Her work is supported by The GroundTruth Project and the Hudson-Webber Foundation.

Article originally published in The Detroit Free Press, April 14, 2021.

► URBAN from page 2

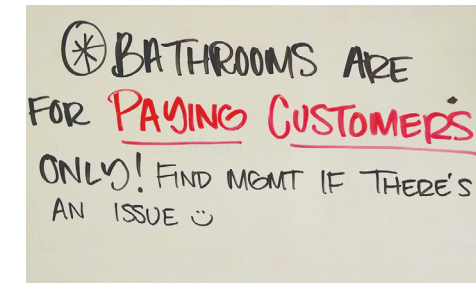
exercise to occur within the home. It is clear that the existing disparities in urban infrastructure will not serve low income individuals during this pandemic. Cities have been given an opportunity to intervene using urban planning. But who will urban planning champion during this pandemic?

Ann Arbor's city landscape changed drastically during the pandemic. Following the suit of larger cities, Ann Arbor's municipal government initiated a street closure policy from June to November 2020 and has reinstated it for summer 2021. The initiative allows for the weekend closures of downtown business district streets. The open streets make room for restaurants and retail stores to expand their business into the street and provide outdoor dining and shopping options to patrons.

Last summer on Saturday nights, I spent time in downtown Ann Arbor to conduct casual interviews with individuals on the streets to see what they thought of the street closure initiative. I did not talk to a single person who didn't support the outdoor dining initiative. Mike and Amber, a couple who moved to Ann Arbor last year, got the sense that, "people [were] happy to be outside, and to sort of be in a community environment but still feel safe and socially distant." Brooke and Claire, university students, were thrilled to, "have something to get dressed up for." And old time townies waiting in line at the beer garden thought the community was "engaged, and thriving."

From my interviews it seemed clear that Ann Arbor's decision to repurpose downtown streets positively affected patrons' perceptions of community during the pandemic. But, I wondered what other folks thought; those on the streets but not dining? It seemed to me

that restaurants and their patrons had claimed the streets for themselves and left those living and working on the streets with no other place to go. The street, a previously public good, was now something to buy into.



Derek, a self-proclaimed 'hustler' sitting on a planter box, told me he supports the street closures, "it's a better living for me." He thinks that with the pandemic, people have "softer hearts" and "they're compassionate in a way they weren't before." And Joe, a regular downtown character, "loves the energy in the air, you can taste it."

'Hustling' might be a more lucrative living than it was pre-pandemic. But COVID-19 has eliminated a lot of the services available to the houseless and hustlers. With the onset of COVID-19, the City of Ann Arbor has made it a point to install handwashing stations in popular outdoor venues like the farmer market. They have not however been so explicit about efforts to provide handwashing stations or restrooms in other more accessible locations.

Joe told me that he used to hang out and use the bathroom at the Starbucks on Main Street but they stopped letting people inside because of COVID-19. With the majority of private businesses closing their restrooms to the public, and the absence of city provided toilets, there is a real shortage of public restrooms.

"One of the biggest moments of urgency in the downtown bathroom



Every year the DDA puts up over 100,000 twinkle lights in the downtown trees. Liberty Plaza gets the DDA's holiday lights. In the photograph there is a porta-potty (which according to Letaw had just been removed due to 'risky behavior' that was occurring in and around the bathroom). Community members had to organize to have it re-installed by Parks and Recreation in October 2020.

situation was when two places closed: Blake Transit center and the Library... They closed because of the [COVID-19] executive order. Typically those are places that provide amenities to people well beyond their patrons — and they see that as a critical part of their mission. That is why there are sharps boxes in the library bathrooms, because they know what goes on in there and they're like if you are going to engage in risky behavior we are going to do everything to make it safe," said Jess Letaw, the former head of the Downtown Development Authority. "Right before it shut down all of the library staff got NARCAN trained so that if anyone overdosed, every single staff member could address it. These places are warming and cooling centers all throughout the year, they are bathrooms and they are safe places. And that got very suddenly taken away."

In the winter of 2020 and 2021 we saw the rapid construction of temporary structures by restaurants so their patrons could stay warm while dining

out in the winter. These little huts were padlocked and disassembled at night. Could these enclosures have been used as warming centers at night, could padlocks be removed during winter blizzards? Where were the mini greenhouses with the space heaters for folks freezing in the winter cold?

The sight of Liberty Plaza glowing in some of the 100,000 twinkle lights, and space heaters warming diners as they drink their 12-dollar cocktails really captures the irony that lurks around liberal Ann Arbor. The creativity and resources that businesses and the City of Ann Arbor put forth to ensure the comfort of its well-to-do residents was extraordinary — left behind were those trying simply to stay alive. It makes me wonder if those in power are unable or simply unwilling to find COVID-19 appropriate solutions to support the underserved residents of Ann Arbor during a moment where resources are more scarce than ever.

JUNE FOR JUSTICE

SHABBAT AT TEMPLE BETH EMETH

June 4	Wear Orange for Gun Violence Prevention
June 11	Hunger and Poverty Relief
June 18	Erev Juneteenth Shabbat
June 25	Pride Shabbat

Services begin at 7:30 PM

Zoom Links available at TempleBethEmeth.org/Calendar

HOPE FROM THOSE WHO KNOW

MENTAL HEALTH

ADVOCACY EDUCATION SUPPORT

NAMI HELPLINE:
(800) 950-6264

WCCMH 24/7 ACCESS LINE:
(734) 544-3050

National Alliance on Mental Illness
Washtenaw County
WWW.NAMIWC.ORG

America the Generous

ELAINE MAHER
Groundcover contributor

I go to the mass vaccination site at EMU today.
Rows of people waiting in cars.
Masked volunteers outside welcoming
Pointing to the
Obvious entrance.
Signs everywhere
Stating the obvious:

Appointment only
Stay in your car until your appointment time
Wear a mask

Each station well staffed with masked friendly people
Directing the thousand of us along
Maintaining an orderly flow
Kindness pouring from their eyes
How are you?

On the left side of the concourse
A long table with
A dozen seated people, heads down, hands busily
Drawing up the elixir
Stacking syringes in batches.

I took pictures to capture the moment
Imagining the future:
How will we be remembered?
Who will decide which stories will endure?

Will they include the armies of kind volunteers?
Or focus on the militant anti-maskers?

Will they mention the restaurants, bakeries, catering services and individuals
Who
Poured food for months to
Hospital ERs and ICUs?
Or will they focus on the division from the anti-vaccine propaganda?

The yard signs of gratitude to essential workers
The encouraging words of the Trader Joe’s cashier who
Was likely the only in-person contact many of us had during our bi-weekly
Essential food shopping trip.
The generous spirit of America on display.
A bounty of kindness.

No headline material here.

Now, in the present,
My 15 minute wait is
Up.
No side effects from the shot.

Blessed again.



Homeless kitty

RONALD PAGERESKI
Groundcover contributor

Kitty, how are you? Cheer up, don't be blue.

Come to me, you'll get some food

that should give you a better mood.

You come around my yard quite often,

your sad eyes my heart they soften.

You're not too happy, I see you pout,

I think it's cruel someone put you out.

Don't despair, shed no tears,

I'll do my best to allay your fears.

In my shed, some warmth I'll lay

where you can spend each chilly day.

Some Kitten Chow will stop your hunger,

you'll not be famished any longer.

You have no home to call your own

so in my yard you can roam.

Come by often, bring your friends,

my kindly heart on you attends.

A day at the office

ROBERT KLINGER
Groundcover contributor

It was another day at the office. But, this office is a little different.
I am an office volunteer at Groundcover News.
The office is a table and chairs outside the back entrance to Bethlehem Church of Christ. I am inside during cold weather, watching for approaching vendors.
I wear a mask when vendors are present and use hand sanitizer.
I bring my lunch and my bag. I put on my badge and take a seat. I pour some coffee, write out receipts for the vendors and record the paper counts and money in a log on a clipboard. I have the vendor initial the receipt and the log. I give the top receipt to the vendor, and then I put the receipt copy and money in a pouch.
Sometimes I will count out papers and special editions.
Such is a day at the office at Groundcover News.

GROUND COVER NEWS ADVERTISING RATES PACKAGE PRICING

Size	Black and White	Color	Approx. Size (W x H)
Business card	\$49.95	\$65.95	2.5 x 1.5
1/8	\$89.95	\$129.95	5 x 3 or 2.5 x 6.5
1/6	\$129.95	\$165.95	5 x 4
1/4	\$159.95	\$215.95	5 x 6.25
1/2	\$299.95	\$399.95	10.25 x 6.5 or 5 x 13
Full Page	\$495.95	\$669.95	10.25 x 13

Three Months/Three Issues: 15% off
Six Months/Six Issues: 25% off
Full Year/Twelve Issues: 35% off
Additional 20% off ads with coupons

Sudoku★★☆☆☆☆4puz.com

3	8					2	6
		7				4	
5	1					9	8
	3	8	5		9	2	6
			2		4		
	7	5	8		1	9	3
6	2					4	9
		1			3		
8	5					1	7

Fill in the squares so that each row, column, and 3-by-3 box contain the numbers 1 through 9.

outloudCHORUS

presentsaFREE outdoor performance

Saturday June 5 at 8 pm

Ann Arbor Farmers Market

315 Detroit St., Ann Arbor

Family-friendly...bring a chair!

LIVE singers, masked & distanced

Info: olconline.org

Out Loud is sponsored in part by:

michigan council for the arts

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT for the ARTS

Passover ObservancesPeter A. Collins

ACROSS

1. Garden pests

7. "Gangnam Style" rapper

10. Shot-caller

14. Quaint term of affection

15. Hard water?

16. Pot starter

17. Stanch

18. Revolt leader Turner

19. Raise

20. Where some learn how to operate

22. Somewhat, informally

23. AFL partner

24. Light blow

25. Furnish with gear

26. Raring to go

28. 1959 William Burroughs classic

30. Call upon

32. "Cum on Feel the Noize" band

33. My or dry follower

34. NATO member

36. Sign of a successful show

37. Place for reps

40. Splits

42. "There's nothing on my schedule"

44. El Paso, for instance

48. Out of it

49. Sidestep

50. Olympic skater Midori

51. Spread

52. "Same here!"

53. Mick and Keith's band, for short

57. Mother of Apollo and Artemis

58. Regret

59. Informal greeting

60. German river

61. HST predecessor

62. "Oh, never mind!" (and what you can do to the last words in 20-- 28--, 44--, and 53-Across)

63. Shipping units

64. Billy Williams

65. Future and past

1. Half of an opening pair?

2. Pop, in Paris

3. Uncompromising

4. Last words before retiring, maybe

5. 1970s musical era

6. Son of 1-Down

7. Common landscaping trees

8. They make the cut in 20-Across

9. Thus far

10. Like Bach's music

11. Result of a solo homer

12. Radio nuisance

13. Angel of the highest order

21. ___ pro nobis

22. Once in a blue moon

26. Had

27. ___ wire

28. Private reply, perhaps

29. "Mack the Knife"

31. Duds worn with studs, often

35. Lip, so to speak

37. Adults

38. "Agreed!"

39. Intersected

40. Some deal with Life sentences

41. "Take that!"

43. Enter rapidly

44. Troublemakers

45. Spanish province or its capital

46. Beyond ripe

47. Calamity

51. Feed, as a fire

54. Part of DOS: Abbr.

55. "The Sopranos" Emmy winner Falco

56. They come before spikes

58. Country mail abbr.

Peter A. Collins

➡ GROUND COVER from page 4

Groundcover News has been a presence and a voice in relevant meetings of the Ann Arbor City Council and Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners. There is no doubt that our news organization has played a significant role in advocacy and voter education of Proposal C — the Affordable Housing Millage which now puts \$6 million dollars every year for 20 years in Arbor's Housing Trust Fund. More homeless people are getting housing vouchers in Washtenaw County. Low-income individuals who have jobs in the city of Ann Arbor are increasingly getting into city-owned and Avalon-managed affordable housing.

"I think the homeless community has significantly greater standing within Washtenaw County than it did in 2010," Beckett reflected. "Other groups, such as MISSION and the Washtenaw Housing Alliance and its members, made substantial contributions to that, but I think Groundcover News played a central role. Articles written by and about homeless people helped the rest of the community to understand their challenges and the diversity of their experiences, dreams and abilities.

"Meeting vendors as they sold Groundcover News around town and at places of worship gave people a chance to know them as people and experience their humanity, to regard them as part of the whole. All of this has propelled commitment of public resources to building more subsidized and affordable housing, as well as increasing and improving emergency shelter conditions. The coordination of services, such as onsite food pantries and health clinics, are major accomplishments," said Beckett.

The motto of the University of Michigan's Wallenberg Prize Committee is, "One person can make a difference." That phrase is our guiding light at Groundcover News. The student volunteers at Groundcover News are cherished. A significant number of U-M students are now aware of our newspaper. They read the articles and share them with their friends and family members. Some students write for Groundcover News. They buy the papers, discuss the articles with their peers and professors, and sometimes, give reviews and feedback to writers like me.

And now, Ms. Lindsay Calka, a recent graduate of the University of Michigan, has taken over the leadership roles at Groundcover News. The future looks bright. As the late Senator Robert F. Kennedy once said, "The future is not a gift. It is an achievement. Every generation helps make their future. This is the essential challenge of the present."

Juneteenth — a celebration of freedom

In a year disrupted by a global pandemic, race and civil rights issues returning to the surface and violence advancing throughout many parts of the world, there is no doubt that we could all use some moments of reflection and connection with ourselves and our histories.

Juneteenth is a celebration that offers value to our communities. However, with the continued coronavirus concerns, some wonder whether a festival will be safe enough for people to attend.

Every year since 1994, Ann Arbor has opened up Wheeler Park to host a Juneteenth celebration. The Ann Arbor chapter of the NAACP, the Washtenaw County Democratic Party and many other organizations come together in the center of what was a historically Black Ann Arbor neighborhood. The park is also dedicated to the first and only African American Mayor of the city, Albert H. Wheeler.

Juneteenth is the oldest known celebration of the end of American slavery. On June 19, 1865, the announcement of slavery abolition reached the last of the enslaved people in Texas and other southwestern states. The news reached them two and a half years after the Emancipation Proclamation was signed by President Abraham Lincoln.

It is with great importance that we hold this day sacred. The day of Black emancipation is as significant a part of our nation's history as our independence from the British secured on July 4, 1776. Nevertheless, the United



JAZ BRENNAN
Groundcover intern

States of America does not, as a whole, recognize this day as a national holiday with three states not recognizing it at all (North and South Dakota and Hawaii). Even Michigan only acknowledges June 19 as a day of celebration.

Ypsilanti recently passed a city resolution to make Juneteenth an official holiday, and Ann Arbor passed a resolution on May 18 to do the same.

"I think this is something that is long overdue not just here in the city of Ypsilanti, and the state of Michigan, but it is something that is long overdue in this country," said Ypsilanti Mayor, Lois Richardson. "And I believe that as [cities] begin to adopt and declare June 19 as a holiday, the state, the country... will eventually get to that place where it will be a national holiday."

While widespread recognition and commemoration are important aspects of understanding the history of the United States, so is the movement we make to continue forward. Teaching our youth about the realities of slavery in the United States

must be paired with the appreciation and dedication to Black art, science, creativity, resourcefulness and resilience.

We need to educate our populace about the devastating horrors and atrocities committed against Black communities which have large ripple effects into our present day lives. Juneteenth is not simply the observation of a moment in history, but a dedication to be beholden to our fellow people, to our history, and as such, our futures.

The 2020 Juneteenth celebration was canceled due to the pandemic, and we are waiting with anticipation to hear if vaccinations and masks will be enough to open up the festivities this year.

While we await the the city's decision about our Juneteenth celebration, there are personal ways in which we can observe this holiday. Take an afternoon to visit the Charles H. Wright Museum in Detroit, or connect to their digital exhibitions. Study the African Diaspora, or listen to and learn the words of *Lift Ev'ry Voice And Sing*. Shop at and support Black business, and, for goodness sakes, read Toni Morrison! Let your exploration take you back to your own family history, track it, accept it. And when you're finished with all of the above, meditate on what it means to be free.

For updated information on the Ann Arbor Juneteenth festival, please see annarborjuneteenth.com or a2gov.org.

Groundcover Principles as a Statement of Solidarity with Humanity

From its inception, **Groundcover News** has approached all its activities with belief in the following principles, as written on our website:

- All people have the right to dignity.
- Diversity has intrinsic value.
- Poverty is political — systemic change is necessary.
- Building community is essential to social change.
- Political effectiveness requires staying power.
- Solutions to poverty must involve people who are directly affected.
- Risks are necessary to create positive change.
- Meeting people where they are honors their skills and potential.
- We are committed to quality, professionalism, and accountability in everything we do.

We feel our attachment to these principles even more strongly today. If they resonate with you too, and you are looking for a way to make a difference during these life-changing times, please join us as a volunteer, supporter, friend or Board Member. To let us know, email: contact@groundcovernews.com.



A celebration of hope with MAP

REBECCA YACIUK
MAP Development Director

Michigan Ability Partners (MAP) is excited to announce its first-ever virtual event – Silver Linings: A Celebration of Hope.

Michigan Ability Partners works with Veterans and people with disabilities who are facing barriers to stability in their lives. The agency serves individuals in Washtenaw, Jackson, Wayne and Monroe counties through housing, employment and financial services. Revenue from this event goes directly back to the agency's programs and services.

In the past, MAP's signature event has been Tastefest – an in-person gathering that showcased different restaurants and cuisines. At the beginning of the state's first lockdown, the agency made the difficult decision to cancel the event completely, even though it is the organization's largest fundraiser.

This year it was obvious that an in-person celebration couldn't happen. This year's special event name was chosen because MAP is incredibly hopeful that 2021 will bring renewed hope and we are committing to make our community a better place.

This year the event will have a drive-thru where guests can pick up a light meal for their enjoyment. Guests are encouraged to enjoy their meal in front of their computer to watch MAP's live streamed program. Additionally, a virtual auction will start a week prior to the event date.

For more information and to register, visit MAP's website at www.mapagency.org/silverlinings.



Groundcover Vendor Code during COVID-19

While Groundcover is a non-profit, and paper vendors are self-employed contractors, we still have expectations of how vendors should conduct themselves while selling and representing the paper. COVID-19 specific requirements were agreed to by vendors following new training.

- I will wear a mask at all times while selling Groundcover News.
- I will use gloves, hand sanitizer or wash with soap to remove germs from my hands before selling and as needed between customers.
- I will stay 6 feet away from others.

The following is our **Vendor Code of Conduct**, which every vendor reads and signs before receiving a badge and papers. We request that if you discover a vendor violating any tenets of the Code, please contact us and provide as many details as possible. Our paper and our vendors should be positively impacting our County.

- Groundcover will be distributed for a voluntary donation. I agree not to ask for more than the cover price

or solicit donations by any other means.

- **When selling Groundcover, I will always have the current monthly issue of Groundcover available for customer purchase.**

- I agree not to sell additional goods or products when selling the paper or to panhandle, including panhandling with only one paper or selling past monthly issues.

- I will wear and display my badge when selling papers and refrain from wearing it or other Groundcover gear when engaged in other activities.

- I will only purchase the paper from Groundcover Staff and will not sell to or buy papers from other Groundcover vendors, especially vendors who have been suspended or terminated.

- I agree to treat all customers, staff, and other vendors respectfully. I will not "hard sell," threaten, harass or pressure customers, staff, or other vendors verbally or physically.

- I will not sell Groundcover under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

- I understand that I am not a legal employee of Groundcover but a contracted worker responsible for my own well-being and income.

COVID Emergency Rental Assistance taking applications now!

The **COVID Emergency Rental Assistance Program**, or CERA, is designed to keep residents in their homes during the COVID-19 pandemic. Rental, utility and internet assistance is available for rental households who are at 80 percent of the Area Median Income or less, and who also meet the following criteria:

- Individual(s) in the household qualified for unemployment benefits or experienced a reduction of household income, incurred significant costs or experienced another financial hardship due directly or indirectly to the coronavirus outbreak; and

- They can demonstrate a risk of housing instability evidenced by a past due utility or rent notice.

The documents needed to apply are as follows:

- Copy of state ID or passport (with proof of residency if address does not match ID). Alternate IDs are acceptable.

- Copy of past due rent notice, a notice to quit or court-ordered summons, complaint or judgement.

- Most current copy of lease

agreement (if a written lease was completed).

- Proof of all earned and unearned income for household members living at the property who are 18 and older:

- 30 days of paystubs or
- First two pages of 2020 1040 tax return

- Proof of unemployment benefits
- SSI/SSDI benefits
- Copy of all utility bills/statements tenant is responsible for.

- Copy of internet bill/statement (if tenant has home internet).

- Landlord's e-mail address
- Documentation of financial hardship (types of documentation needed are shown on official CERA website: www.michigan.gov/cera)

Applications can be completed online at www.ceraapp.michigan.gov. More information about the CERA program can be found at www.michigan.gov/CERA.

Questions? Call Housing Access for Washtenaw County (HAWC) at 734-961-1999.

COVID EMERGENCY RENTAL ASSISTANCE



RENTAL ASSISTANCE



UTILITY ASSISTANCE



INTERNET ASSISTANCE

The COVID Emergency Relief Assistance (CERA) program provides funding for housing (rent), utilities, and internet assistance to qualifying* individuals and families.

*Based on eligibility requirements set by the Michigan State Housing Development Authority.

Apply online at michigan.gov/CERA. For paper applications or for assistance, contact HAWC at (734)-961-1999.



OFFICE OF COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
Collaborative solutions for a promising future

Watermelon feta salad

DUY-ANH VO

Groundcover contributor

Ingredients:

¼ cup virgin olive oil
1 tsp black pepper
1 tsp coarsely crushed coriander seeds
½ tsp cumin seeds
½ tsp ground turmeric
¼ large seedless watermelon (about 3 lb.), rind removed, flesh cut into ½" pieces (about 4 cups)
2 medium heirloom tomatoes, cut into ½" pieces
8 oz. mild feta, cut into ½" pieces
Flaky sea salt



medium until fragrant, about 3 minutes. Let turmeric oil cool slightly.

Arrange watermelon, tomato, and feta on a platter. Drizzle turmeric oil evenly over and sprinkle with salt. Makes 4-6 servings.

Directions:

Heat coconut oil, peppercorns, coriander seeds, cumin seeds, and turmeric in a small saucepan over

PUZZLE SOLUTIONS

3	8	4	9	5	7	1	2	6
9	6	7	1	8	2	4	5	3
5	1	2	3	4	6	7	9	8
4	3	8	5	7	9	2	6	1
1	9	6	2	3	4	8	7	5
2	7	5	8	6	1	9	3	4
6	2	3	7	1	8	5	4	9
7	4	1	6	9	5	3	8	2
8	5	9	4	2	3	6	1	7

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
A	P	H	I	D	S	P	S	Y	B	O	S	S
14	D	E	A	R	I	E	I	C	E	A	N	T
17	A	R	R	E	S	T	N	A	T	R	E	A
20	M	E	D	S	C	H	O	L	S	O	R	T
23	C	I	O	R	A	P	E	Q	U	I	P	
26	A	G	O	G	N	A	K	E	D	L	U	N
30	T	U	R	N	T	O	S	L	A	D	E	
33	E	Y	E	U	S	A	S	R	O	G	Y	M
40	E	X	I	T	S	I	M	F	R	E	E	
44	B	O	R	D	E	R	T	O	W	N	L	O
49	A	V	O	I	D	I	T	O	S	O	W	
52	D	I	T	T	O	T	H	E	S	T	O	N
57	L	E	T	O	R	U	E	Y	O	D	U	D
60	O	D	E	R	F	D	R	S	K	I	P	I
63	T	O	N	S	D	E	E	T	E	N	S	E

Bethlehem United Church of Christ

whoever you are, and wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here

423 S. Fourth Avenue, Ann Arbor, MI 48104 734-665-6149

Bethlehem-ucc.org facebook.com/bethlehemuccA2

Bethlehem Church is home of the Groundcover office



JUNE 2021 EVENTS AT BETHLEHEM

Bethlehem has cancelled all in-person activities due to COVID-19.

Here are ways you can experience our 10 am worship service on Sundays:

Most Simple - Tune in to our live radio broadcast on WAAM 1600AM.

You can also listen to WAAM on Tune In by following this link

: <http://www.mainstreamnetwork.com/listen/player.asp?station=waam-am&listen=Listen+Live>.

(Click the shiny "play" button on the lower left of the page, ignoring any advertisements.)

• Facebook

Beginning at 9:55 Sunday, you will find our Live Video at Bethlehem's Facebook

page: <https://www.facebook.com/bethlehemuccA2>

• Following the 10 am service on Sunday, the video will be posted to the Bethlehem UCC website: www.bethlehem-ucc.org. We have begun posting the service to [Bethlehem's YouTube page](#), it will be available there at 10 am on Sundays.

Thank you all. We look forward to worshipping together.



Sunday Worship Times

10:00 am Sanctuary
streamed on Facebook

We're Open!

Now Open Saturdays Only 9am-1pm



Face Masks
Required



Limited
Capacity



Social Distance
Required



Additional Safety
Measures

Check our website and
Facebook page for updates.

Kiwanis
Thrift Sale

100 N. Staebler Rd.
Off W. Jackson Rd. (One mile west of Zeeb Rd.)

Official Sponsor of Warm the Children

Saturdays 9am-1pm | a2kiwanis.org | 734-368-9738



St. Francis invites you

to join Mass by live stream or
in-person

Spanish: stfrancisa2.com/misa

English: stfrancisa2.com/mass

See our website for details on all worship
services, events, and activities

ALL are welcome to worship again at St.
Francis for in-person services!

Mass Times:

Saturday Vigil 5 pm & 7 pm (español);

Sunday 8:30am, 10:30am, 12:30pm.

Daily Mon-Fri at 9:15am; Thurs Mass is
followed by a Holy Hour.



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